

Two pieces, both new here, were performed at this theatre last night, entitled *A Ball in a China Shop*, and *Cousin Cherry*. The *Bull in a China Shop* is a very laughable illustration of that proverbial title. Mr. Tipthorpe, an old gentleman who has his peccadilloes, is nevertheless very quiet and happy with his family—a wife and daughter. There is a suitor for the daughter's hand, beloved by the daughter and approved of by the father and mother. There is a servant maid married to a piano tuner, and who keeps her marriage secret for fear she will lose her place. Except this little trouble, every one in the play is perfectly happy, when suddenly this domestic circle is entered by Bagshot, the friend of Mr. Tipthorpe. He immediately discovers a great many mysteries, such that Tipthorpe's family is menaced with ruin, and devotes himself to save it. But in this laudable process he gets every one by the ears in the most ludicrous manner. The purpose and the plot of the play is a tangle. Many comical and ludicrous scenes result from the elaboration of this tangle, and the play has at least fifty good points in it though it is a little overlong. Bagshot's character is happily sketched. Messrs. Davidge, Morton, Stoddard and Owens played the principal parts with capital spirit. Mr. Stoddard's manner was particularly excellent, as was that of Mr. Owens.

*Cousin Cherry* is a very much slower piece, though Mrs. Wood was the Cousin Cherry, and though she is supposed to be a very good actress. The play is a story of widows in the drama. They must be very virtuous to the actresses, as they certainly are to the audience. In this latter respect, though she doubtless did the best that could have been done with it. Mrs. Brown played very nearly the part of a modest little country girl, and was adequately represented by Mr. Clarke. The story of the play is a love story in the usual way, and played out in the usual way.